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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Egypt

DATE DISTR. 8 September 1948

SUBJECT Production of Heavy Water
by Aswan Hydroelectric Project

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1. Cairo newspapers published many articles during the winter 1947-8 concerning potential uses for electricity to be derived from the Aswan hydroelectric project which is now under way. Comment. In the spring of 1948 the newspaper Al-Assas quoted Egyptian engineer Abd-al-Aziz Ahmad Bey as saying that Egypt would be able to produce heavy water /deuterium oxide/ when the Aswan hydroelectric plant is put into operation. Large profits for Egypt from the sale of heavy water were envisioned by Ahmad.)
2. At the time of the publication of these articles, an undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of Egypt stated that there were no plans as yet for the production of heavy water in Egypt, and apparently the project has not been discussed with engineers of any nationality.
3. The Aswan hydroelectric project may not be finished for at least five years, so that various by-products will not be ready to market for some time, source states.

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